

Wings (flattened): 56–62 (58.07) mm. (Seven specimens examined).

Type: In the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria.

Range: The coastal forests of Pondoland, eastern Cape Province, and Natal.

A new Chough from the highlands of Abyssinia

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The subspecific status of the population of *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* which breeds in the highlands of Abyssinia has been questioned by Vaurie (1954, Amer. Mus. Novitates, No. 1658, p. 6) in a recent review of the species because this population is extremely isolated by distances varying from about 2500 to more than 4000 kilometers from the nearest breeding populations in northwestern Africa and Iran. Vaurie had no specimens from Abyssinia but questioned whether the statements in the literature are correct that this population is identical with that of Iran, the name of which is *docilis* S. G. Gmelin, 1774.

Since this paper was published, we have examined two series from Abyssinia, one of five specimens in the collection of the British Museum (examined by Vaurie) and one of eight specimens in the collection of the Chicago Natural History Museum (examined by Rand who sent six of these specimens to Vaurie). We find that the population of Abyssinia is distinct from *docilis* or from *barbarus*, the name under which Vaurie in 1954 separated the population of north-western Africa. We believe that it is desirable to call attention to the characters of this isolated population and propose for it the name

Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax baileyi, new subspecies.

Type: Chicago Natural History Museum No. 83557; adult male; Ras Dashan, northern Abyssinia; 11,200 feet; March 25th, 1927; A. M. Bailey, collector.

Diagnosis: Differs from *barbarus* by having a longer wing, similar in length to that of *docilis* but differing from the latter by having a longer bill. Differs from both by being duller, less glossy on the wing as well as on the mantle and on the underparts. It is the dullest population of the species known to us.

Measurements: Type, wing 323, tail 153, bill 62. Comparative measurements in adult males, *docilis*, 11 specimens, wing 306–330 (315), tail 132–161 (145), bill 52–61 (56.8); *barbarus*, from Morocco and Algeria, 15 specimens, wing 290–310 (302), tail 129–153 (145), bill 61–67 (63.4); *baileyi*, 7 specimens, wing 310–329 (318.6); tail 145–155 (150.6), bill 54–56 (60.6 mm.).

Remarks: Though this is not a particularly well marked race, it is as distinct as are most of the races in this species, and its characters make it impossible to combine this extremely isolated population with either *docilis* or with *barbarus*.

This subspecies is named for Dr. Alfred M. Bailey, now Director of the Denver Natural History Museum, who was part of the 1926–27 Daily-News Abyssian Expedition of the Chicago Natural History Museum.